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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/507,404	05/23/2005	Manfred Fritsch	209546-84417	4880
44200	7590	12/20/2005		
HONIGMAN MILLER SCHWARTZ & COHN LLP 38500 WOODWARD AVENUE SUITE 100 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304-5048			EXAMINER MENEZES, MARCUS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	

DATE MAILED: 12/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

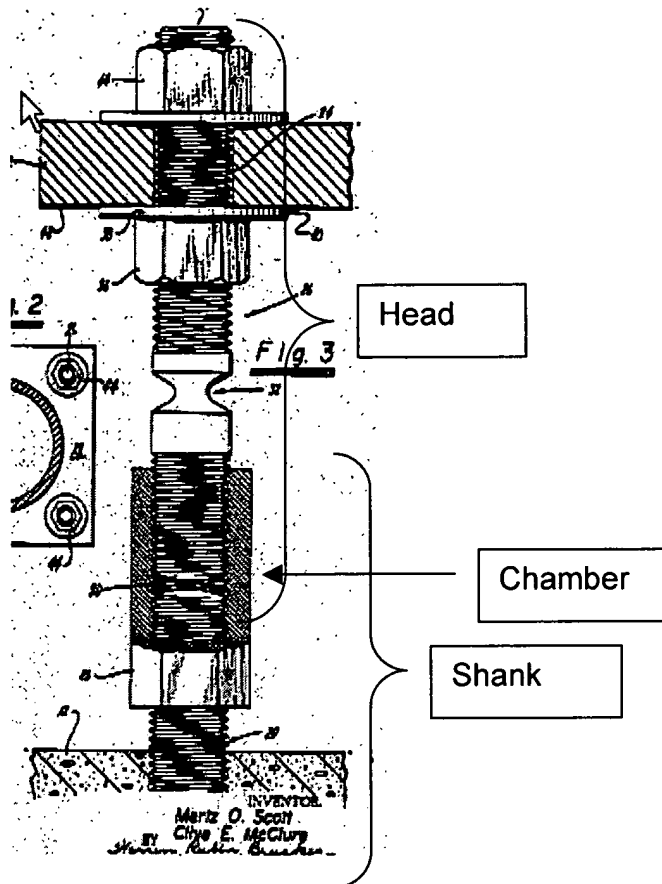
Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Scott et al. (US Patent No. 3,521,413).

Scott et al. discloses a connector assembly comprising of a shank including a head end (28) and an anchor end (12); a head operatively coupled to said shank, said head including a trim retaining end (24), a shank engaging end (30), and a break neck (32) therebetween, wherein said trim retaining end breaks from said head at said break neck when a load is applied to said head. Scott et al. further discloses that said shank includes a threaded chamber extending between said head end and said anchor end and where a screw (20) is threadedly inserted in said chamber. Also, Scott et al. discloses that said head includes an upper disc (44) and a lower disc (36), and wherein said trim panel includes at least one boss (22) for receiving said upper disc while said lower disc abuts a lower surface of said boss.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott et al. in view of Frischmann et al. (US Patent No. 6,676,346).

Scott et al. discloses a shank, but without a bulbous portion that expands radially outward when said screw is received in said chamber.

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Frischmann et al. teaches of a bulbous portion (3) of a connector assembly that expands radially outward when a screw is received in its chamber.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included the bulbous portion in Scott et al. in view of Frischmann et al. in order to further secure the shank to its base.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 5,596,845

US Patent No. 6,056,471

US Patent No. 5,178,502

US Patent No. 5,207,750

US Patent No. 6,959,902

US Patent No. 4,867,625

Japanese Patent No. 2001277985 A

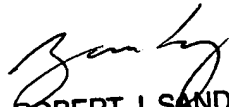
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Menezes whose telephone number is 571-272-6284. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 5:30pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marcus Menezes
Examiner
Art Unit 3677


ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER